

Every student learning, growing ... succeeding.

August/September 2017
Volume 145

(262) 971-1820; www.muskegonorway.org
Check out Infinite Campus for daily school announcements.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Please know that other events will continue to be added, but here are the dates we know of:

August 9: Registration – 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

August 10: Registration – 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

August 22: Open House/School Supply Drop Off (Grades 5 – 8) – 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

August 24: **First day of school – students may arrive at 7:55 a.m.; school starts at 8:05 a.m.**

August 31: 5th grade parent night – 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

September 4: **NO SCHOOL**

September 12: PTO Meeting – 3:30 p.m.

September 18: **NO SCHOOL**



2017-18 SCHOOL START DAY

The first day of school is **THURSDAY, AUGUST 24.**

School is in session from **8:05 a.m. to 3:05 p.m.** The Main Office is open from 7:30 a.m. to 3:05 p.m., and the Student Services Office is open daily from 7:35 a.m. to 3:25 p.m.

Please do not drop off your child at school before 7:55 a.m. as supervision is not available until that time. If you need child care in the morning, there are providers in the community that have bus transportation from their site to our school.

The 2017-18 school year calendar was approved by the school board in Dec 2016. **Please note, next year's calendar has Muskego-Norway Schools starting school on August 24, 2017.** It was determined that starting school early in 2017 would allow the district to finish about one and a half weeks early in June 2018. Why you ask? The added time in the summer of 2018 will allow students and staff to vacate the buildings earlier, thus allowing custodian and construction crews necessary time to prepare for and complete major construction projects tied to the April 2016 Facilities Referendum. Thank you in advance for your attention to the earlier start this upcoming school year.

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS DELIVERED BY EMAIL

Please note that this will be the only monthly newsletter that will be mailed home. You will receive a copy of each monthly newsletter via an **Infinite Campus messenger email** or, alternatively, you can read/view an electronic copy by accessing our school website. If you do NOT have computer access and wish to receive a newsletter in the mail, please contact the Main Office.

A large percentage of school correspondence is sent through e-mail. Please check your SPAM if you are not receiving any e-mails.

REGISTRATION DAYS

To help your child be prepared for the first day of school, please plan on attending a registration day on **August 9, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. or August 10, 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.** During registration you and your child can tour the building including the grade level wing where he or she will have classes.

Registration fees are \$65.00 per student. Students new to LDMS will also need to purchase a school issued lock for \$5.00.

Technology fees are \$20.00 per student.

Spanish I and Spanish II workbook fees are \$18.00 for every student enrolled in Spanish I and Spanish II

French I workbook fees are \$20.00 for every student enrolled in French I

OPTIONAL EXPENSES

\$8.00 - \$40.00 - School picture packages. Checks payable to SCHOOL PICS.

\$25.00 – Chromebook Insurance

\$15.00 – Teen Center (Grades 5, 6, and 7)

Phy Ed Shirts and shorts will be available for purchase at registration. Checks payable to LAKE DENOON PTO.

Optional forms available at registration:

- Prescription (blue) and/or non-prescription (pink) authorization form
- Athletic and Co-Curricular Activities

At this time, online registration is not available for parents. There will be more information provided at the end of July/beginning of August. We will e-mail you when the online information is available for parents to use. **If you do not have a parent portal user name and password, please contact Melanie Strom at the Educational Services Center at (262) 971-1800, ext. 2101.**

Please do not contact the school for your child's teacher assignment. Student schedules will be available mid-August.

BUS INFORMATION

In the first week of August, you will receive a communication from Lamers Bus Lines to let you know the bus route and the approximate pick-up and drop-off times for your child(ren). Additional information may be obtained from Lamers at (262) 679-8920.

If any changes are needed as to where your child is being picked up or dropped off, please submit a Busing form to Lamers. The form can be found on the Muskego-Norway District website under Parents & Students → Information → Buses & Transport → Regular Home-to-school Transportation Form located on the right side of the page under Resources.

OPEN HOUSE ALL GRADES/5th GRADE TRANSITION NIGHT

This year we are planning an Open House for all grade levels and a 5th Grade Transition Night. Please mark your calendar for **Tuesday, August 22 – 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.** More information will be available by registration.

SCHOOL PICTURES

All students need to have their pictures taken for the yearbook and honor card. There is no cost for this unless you choose to order pictures. **Pictures will be taken on registration days and on a make-up day after school begins.** Picture retakes will be taken at a later date. Pictures will be handed out in your child's homeroom when we receive them.

MEDICATION CONSENT FORMS

Signed consent forms for non-prescription and prescription medication must be on file for the health room to dispense medication. These forms are available at registration or on our website.

IMMUNIZATION UPDATE

Please make sure your child's immunization records are current. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Kovac in the Lake Denoon health room at (262) 971-1820, ext. 7436.

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Prior to the beginning of school, **please read the student handbook** (located on our school's homepage) with your child which includes pertinent information concerning school expectations and guidelines.

LUNCH PRICE INFORMATION FOR 2017-18

Meal prices for next year have not been finalized. Information will be sent out to parents once the pricing is available. Our lunch program also offers a la carte items at varying prices. Please discuss with your child how you want lunch money to be used. When making a deposit into a lunch account, please put your child's name in the memo of the check. **We no longer use family ID numbers.**

LOCKS/LOCKERS

Students are expected to purchase their own combination lock from Lake Denoon Middle School. As with current combination locks, these locks can be opened by a school administrator to search the contents if the need arises. The lock's serial number must be registered with school personnel. **Students may NOT purchase/use an outside lock.** Please note that a lock for physical education class will be provided to your child by the PE teacher. Students will receive their locker assignment during the first few days of school. For 2017-18, only incoming fifth grade and new LDMS students or those needing a lock because it was lost need to purchase one.

During the school year, lost or replacement locks can be purchased in the Student Services office.

VISITORS ENTERING THE BUILDING

In our efforts to continually improve the safety and security of our schools for students and staff, we will be implementing a consistent process for checking visitors in/out of our district schools.

Please know that all adult school visitors (who will be picking up a student from the health room, having lunch with a student, or visiting a classroom) **need to sign in at the Main Office first.** They **will also be asked to show a photo ID**, such as a driver's license, when signing in as a visitor to any district school.

Please know that the reason for this procedure is to assure a safe school environment for our students and staff.

ATHLETICS AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Information about LDMS athletic programs, intramurals, and clubs is available at registration or at the LDMS website. Fees are paid at the beginning of each sport season. Athletic fees for the 2017-2018 school year are \$45.00 per interscholastic sport with an individual cap of \$90.00. There is no family cap.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY FOR 2017-18



In order to be eligible for co-curricular activities in the fall of 2017, students must have met the criteria as outlined in the co-curricular code. Academic criteria requires that students have a 2.0 GPA and have no more than one failing grade during the preceding nine weeks. For activities that begin during first quarter next year, fourth quarter grades from the 2016-17 school year will be used to determine academic eligibility.

If your child is planning on participating in any athletic co-curricular activity grades 5 – 8, please obtain a physical form (from the office or website), have your child get a physical from a licensed physician, and turn the form into Lake Denoon Student Services Office.

All athletes who are planning on participating in interscholastic sports (those which play other schools) will be required to have a physical **prior to tryouts**. All physicals will be good until the end of 8th grade. Have your doctor fill out the physical card (salmon). Each year after the physical, you must file an alternate year card (yellow), which the athletes' parents sign. Sports requiring a physical are: sixth, seventh, and eighth grade boys' and girls' basketball, cross country, track, wrestling, cheerleading, and seventh and eighth grade girls' volleyball. If you have any questions, you can contact Mark Nagy, LDMS Activities Coordinator, at (262) 971-1820, ext. 7118, or you can email him at mark.nagy@muskegonorway.org.

CONFIDENTIALITY

School Counselors, School Social Workers, School Psychologists, and School Nurses keep information confidential unless disclosure is required to prevent clear and imminent danger to the student/counselor or others or when legal requirements demand that confidential information be revealed. The Student Services Staff may consult with other appropriate professionals when deemed necessary. All of the above is in keeping with professional ethical standards.

WALKING AND RIDING BIKES TO SCHOOL

The roadways are not deemed to be safe for students to ride their bikes to and from school. The school does not provide bike racks and, accordingly, LDMS/MNS cannot take responsibility for the children's safety when riding a bike or bike property.

Children who have permission from their parent/guardian to walk should be extremely careful and should not walk on the road due to the volume and speed of the traffic. The school district does not assume any liability for students who walk to or from school.

BUS TRANSFERS

All students who will be taking a different bus route home must have a note from a parent/guardian indicating the child's name, grade level, and the bus route number that the child will be taking home. The note must be brought to the Student Services Office **before 2:30 p.m.** for a bus pass. The best time to get a bus pass is before school starts. **Students are not allowed to call home as written permission is required.**

MUSKEGO-NORWAY SCHOOL WEBPAGE

Check it out! www.muskegonorway.org has information on individual school updates and district information. Please check our LDMS link regularly for updates about upcoming events and/or to find our parent/guardian newsletters, and other information related to our school. Our daily announcements are posted on Infinite Campus each day and are updated by 10:00 a.m.

You can also access the district calendar by going to the website and click on calendars.

CANINE ASSISTED SEARCHES

In order to protect the safety and welfare of students/staff and to promote a drug-free school environment, the Muskego-Norway school board has authorized the use of canines trained for detection of drugs and explosive devices in district schools and on school grounds. This is a practice that has become the norm in secondary schools throughout our region in recent years. Due to this policy, it is now the norm in Muskego-Norway schools. A copy of the policy can be found in the student handbook. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Linda O'Bryan, Principal, or John McEwing, Associate Principal.

DRESS CODE

The School Board recognizes that each student's mode of dress and grooming is a manifestation of personal style and individual preference. The Board will not interfere with the right of students and their parents to make decisions regarding their appearance, except when their choices interfere with the educational program of the schools.

Accordingly, the Superintendent shall establish such grooming guidelines as are necessary to promote discipline, maintain order, secure the safety of students, and provide a healthy environment conducive to academic purposes. Such guidelines shall prohibit student dress or grooming practices which:

- A. present a hazard to the health or safety of the student himself/herself or to others in the school;
- B. interfere with school work, create disorder, or disrupt the educational program;
- C. cause excessive wear or damage to school property;
- D. prevent the student from achieving his/her own educational objectives because of blocked vision or restricted movement.

Such guidelines shall establish the dress requirements for members of the athletic teams, bands, and other school groups when representing the District a public event.

(School Board Policy 5511)

Students are also encouraged to bring a sweatshirt and keep it in their locker to wear when they get cold. With 130,000 square feet, it can be difficult to maintain each classroom's temperature. Our room temperature is set at 70 degrees.

MNS SCHOOL BOARD POLICY 411: DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND BULLYING PROHIBITED

In the 2017-18 Parent/Guardian Handbook please find pertinent information related to this important matter. In particular, your attention to the following portion of the policy is greatly appreciated.

Prohibited Harassment

It is the policy of the School Board to maintain an educational environment that is free from all forms of harassment, including sexual harassment. This commitment applies to all District operations, programs, and activities. All students, administrators, teachers, staff, and all other school personnel share responsibility for avoiding, discouraging, and reporting any form of harassment. This policy applies to conduct occurring in any manner or setting over which the Board can exercise control, including on school property, or at another location if such conduct occurs during an activity sponsored by the Board.

The Board will not tolerate any form of harassment and will take all necessary and appropriate actions to eliminate it, including suspension or expulsion of students and disciplinary action against any other individual in the School District community. Additionally, appropriate action will be taken to stop and otherwise deal with any third party who engages in harassment against our students.

Bullying

Bullying is prohibited by Board Policy 5517.01 – Bullying. It is defined as deliberate or intentional behavior using words or actions, intended to cause fear, intimidation, or harm. Bullying may be a repeated behavior and involves an imbalance of power. Furthermore, it may be serious enough to negatively impact a student's educational, physical, or emotional well-being. Bullying need not be based on any Protected Characteristic. Bullying behavior rises to the level of harassment when the prohibited conduct is based upon the student's sex (including transgender status, change of sex, or gender identity), race color, national origin, religion, creed, ancestry, marital or parental status, sexual orientation of physical, mental, emotional or learning disability, or any other characteristic protected by Federal or State civil rights.

Muskego-Norway Schools will provide a safe, secure and respectful learning environment for all students, in school buildings, on school buses and at school-sponsored events that prohibits bullying. "Bullying" includes aggressive or hostile behavior that is intentional and involves an imbalance of power between the bully and the bullied. It is typically repeated over time. Bullying takes many forms, including, but not limited to, physical or verbal assaults, nonverbal or emotional threats or intimidation, social exclusion and isolation, extortion, and the use of a computer or telecommunications to send embarrassing, slanderous, threatening, or intimidating messages. Bullying is a form of victimization and is not necessarily a result of or part of an ongoing conflict. Bullying can also be characterized by teasing, put-downs, name-calling, cruel rumors, false accusations, and hazing.

TECHNOLOGY

APPROPRIATE USE OF TECHNOLOGY – Muskego-Norway Schools utilizes a software program as a means to monitor appropriate use of all district technology. Please speak with your child about exercising good judgment when using technology at Lake Denoon. Should your child accidentally type an inappropriate word, **he/she needs to immediately speak with the teacher/adult in the room.** Also, per board policy, access to the internet has been established for educational purposes. Any violation of this policy may result in disciplinary actions.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact John McEwing, Associate Principal, ext. 7002, or Linda O'Bryan, Principal, ext. 7001.

